

## CLAIMS

1           1.     A computer-based method for registering users of a central computer  
2 system, the method comprising:

3                 collecting at a remote computer system information relating to a user who  
4 wants to register at the central computer system;

5                 sending the collected information from the remote computer system to the  
6 central computer system;

7                 receiving at the central computer system a request from the user to register, the  
8 request including identification data;

9                 locating the collected information for the user using the identification data  
10 included in the request; and

11                 indicating that the user is registered and associating the located information  
12 with the registered user.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the collected information includes an  
2 electronic mail address and including sending an electronic mail message to the electronic  
3 mail address with instructions for registering at the central computer system.

1           3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic mail message includes a  
2 link to a web page of the central computer system.

1           4.     The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic mail message includes a  
2 link that identifies the information collected for the user.

1           5.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes information for  
2 identifying the remote computer system.

6. A method in a remote computer system for collecting information for users who are not registered with a central computer system, the method comprising:

- receiving the information from a user and storing the received information;
- determining whether the user is registered with the central computer system;
- when the user is not registered, receiving identification data from the user; and
- sending the stored information with the received identification data to the central computer system so that the central computer system can effect the registration of the user and association of the information with that user.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the central computer system sends an electronic mail message to the user that provides registration instructions.

8. The method of claim 6 including when the user is not registered, asking the user whether they want to register.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein the identification data includes an electronic mail address.

10. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a remote computer system to collect information for users who are not registered with a central computer system, by a method comprising:

- receiving the information from a user; and
- when the user is not registered at the central computer system,
  - receiving identification data from the user; and
  - sending the received information with the received identification data to the central computer system so that the central computer system can effect the registration of the user and association of the information with that user.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the central computer system sends an electronic mail message to the user that provides registration instructions.

